

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. An apparatus for navigating electronically through and retrieving related information
5 comprising:
- a) a server storing information to be retrieved;
 - b) a portable handheld communication device having:
 - i) at least one memory device capable of storing instructions and information
from the server,
 - 10 ii) a display, and
 - iii) a control mechanism;
 - c) a communications link between the portable handheld communication device and
the server; and
 - d) byte code instructions stored in the communications device memory device that
15
 - i) divide the display into at least one navigation pane and at least one
information pane, thereby creating an Object Browser;
 - ii) establish at least one object comprising characters or graphics in the at
least one navigation panel;
 - iii) either
20
 - (1) establish at least one object in the at least one information pane; or
 - (2) display retrieved information in the at least one information pane;
 - iv) enable a user of the handheld communications device to select a pane;

- v) enable a user of the handheld communications device to select an object when the pane that contains the object is selected;
- vi) retrieve from the server information related to a selected object; and
- vii) displays the retrieved information on the at least one information pane.

5

2. The apparatus of Claim 1 in which the communications link between the portable handheld communication device and the server comprises a wireless telephone link.

10

3. The apparatus of Claim 1 in which the communications link between the portable handheld communication device and the server comprises a mechanism for synchronization with a server.

15

4. The apparatus of Claim 1 in which the control mechanism comprises a touch stylus or a plurality of buttons or a combination of touch stylus and a plurality of buttons.

5. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein displayed information comprises at least one form of information selected from the group of audio, text, graphic, video, and animation.

20

6. The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising instructions that activate a screen area wherein a user can select objects in the activated screen area.

7. The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising instructions that resize the size of the navigation and information panes upon activation of a designated portion of the control mechanism.

8. The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising

- a) means for determining whether the size of the information pane is large enough to adequately display information selected for display in the information pane;
- b) means for displaying a part of the page of information; and
- c) means for scrolling information that is displayed in response to user input to move the displayed area.

9. In a handheld communication device having a display screen, a control mechanism through which a user interacts with the device, byte-code instructions enabling the device to respond to user interactions in accordance with the control mechanism, a communications link enabling the device to access information from a remote information base, and a storage system for storing data downloaded from the remote server, a method for displaying stored information about selected objects comprising the steps of:

- a) displaying an Object Browser, wherein the Object Browser segments the display screen into at least two screen areas, at least one navigation pane, comprising an area for displaying symbols that represent objects, and at least one information pane, comprising an area for displaying information about selected objects;
- b) selecting an object that is represented in the navigation pane;

- c) retrieving information corresponding to the selected object; and
- d) displaying the information retrieved about the selected object in the information pane.

5 10. The method of Claim 9, wherein information concerning a selected object is retrieved from the remote server.

11. The method of Claim 9, wherein information concerning objects represented in the navigation pane is downloaded from the remote server and stored in the storage
10 system of the handheld communication device.

12. The method of Claim 9, wherein the handheld communication device accesses information from a remote server via synchronization with a personal computer and stores information in the storage system of the handheld communication device.

15 13. The method of Claim 9, wherein information concerning a selected object is retrieved from the storage system of the handheld communication device.

14. The method of Claim 9 additionally comprising the steps of:
20 a) selecting an object displayed in an information pane;
 b) receiving user input indicating an open Object Browser operation;
 c) displaying a new Object Browser wherein the new Object Browser includes a navigation pane that displays symbols representing the selected object and other

objects and an information pane that displays detailed information about the selected object.

15. The method of Claim 9, wherein an object represents an event.

5

16. The method of Claim 9 wherein the object represents an entity.

17. The method of Claim 9 wherein the object represents a category of events or entities.

10

18. The method of Claim 9, wherein the object represents a collection of events, entities, or categories.

19. The method of Claim 9 wherein the Object Browser comprises at least two navigation panes.

15

20. The method of Claim 9 further comprising the step of activating instructions for resizing the navigation and information panes using the control mechanism.

20

21. The method of Claim 9 wherein a user selects an object with a key selection from a keyboard.

22. The method of Claim 9, wherein a user opens an Object Browser by using a pointing device.

23. The method of Claim 9 wherein a user opens an Object Browser by using a button.

24. The method of Claim 23 wherein the button comprises one or more of: an up/down
5 button, a two-way navigation button, or a four-way navigation button.

25. The method of Claim 9 wherein a user opens an Object Browser with a key selection
from a keyboard.

10 26. The method of Claim 9 additionally comprising the step of activating a screen area
wherein a user can traverse and select objects in the activated screen area.

27. The method of Claim 26 wherein a screen area is automatically activated.

15 28. The method of Claim 26 wherein a user activates a screen area by using a soft key.

29. The method of Claim 26 wherein a user activates a screen area by depressing a
button.

20 30. The method of Claim 26 wherein a user activates a screen area with a key selection
from a keyboard.